

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

**Claim 1 (Currently Amended)** A liquid fuel cell which comprises, as an assembly:

- (a) a negative electrode which serves as a hydrogen electrode;
  - (b) a positive electrode which serves as an oxygen electrode counterposed to the negative electrode keeping a space therebetween;
  - (c) a permeable membrane to partition the space between the negative and positive electrodes;
  - (d) an electrolyte solution in contact with the negative electrode; and
  - (e) an oxygen source in contact with the positive electrode;
- in which the negative electrode as the hydrogen electrode is made of ~~an unfluorinated or~~ a fluorinated hydrogen absorbing alloy before or after hydrogenation and the electrolyte solution which serves also as a fuel source is an aqueous solution containing an alkaline compound and a substance capable of generating negative hydrogen ions.

**Claim 2 (Original)** The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 1 in which the hydrogen absorbing alloy forming the negative electrode is selected from the group consisting of  $\text{LaNi}_{4.7}\text{Al}_{0.3}$ ,  $\text{MmNi}_{0.35}\text{Mn}_{0.4}\text{Al}_{0.3}\text{Co}_{0.75}$ ,  $\text{MmNi}_{3.75}\text{Co}_{0.75}\text{Mn}_{0.20}\text{Al}_{0.30}$ ,  $\text{Ti}_{0.5}\text{Zr}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.8}\text{Cr}_{0.8}\text{Ni}_{0.4}$ ,  $\text{Ti}_{0.5}\text{Zr}_{0.5}\text{Mn}_{0.5}\text{Cr}_{0.5}\text{Ni}$ ,  $\text{Ti}_{0.5}\text{Zr}_{0.5}\text{V}_{0.75}\text{Ni}_{1.25}$ ,  $\text{Ti}_{0.5}\text{Zr}_{0.5}\text{V}_{0.5}\text{Ni}_{1.5}$ ,  $\text{Ti}_{0.1}\text{Zr}_{0.9}\text{V}_{0.2}\text{Mn}_{0.6}\text{Co}_{0.1}\text{Ni}_{1.1}$  and  $\text{MmNi}_{3.87}\text{Co}_{0.78}\text{Mn}_{0.10}\text{Al}_{0.38}$ , in which Mm denotes a misch metal.

**Claim 3 (Original)** The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 1 in which the substance capable of generating negative hydrogen ions contained in the electrolyte solution is a metal-hydrogen complex compound represented by the general formula  $\text{M}_\text{I}^+[\text{M}_\text{II}^{3+}(\text{H})_4]$ , in which  $\text{M}_\text{I}$  is an alkali metal element and  $\text{M}_\text{II}$  is an element of boron, aluminum or gallium.

**Claim 4 (Original)** The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 3 in which the substance capable of generating negative hydrogen ions is potassium borohydride, sodium borohydride or lithium aluminohydride.

**Claim 5 (Original)** The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 1 in which the alkaline compound contained in the electrolyte solution is an alkali metal hydroxide.

**Claim 6 (Original)** The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 5 in which the concentration of the alkali metal hydroxide in the electrolyte solution is in the range from 5 to 30% by weight.

**Claim 7 (Original)** The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 3 in which the concentration of the metal-hydrogen complex compound in the electrolyte solution is in the range from 0.1 to 50% by weight.

**Claim 8 (Original)** The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 1 in which the oxygen source is oxygen gas or air.

**Claim 9 (Original)** The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 1 in which the oxygen source is an aqueous solution of a water-soluble oxidizing compound.

**Claim 10 (Currently Amended)** The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 1 in which the permeable membrane partitioning the space between the negative and positive electrodes is a cation exchange membrane, anion exchange, ~~exchange~~ membrane or amphoteric ion exchange membrane.

**Claim 11 (Original)** The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 1 in which the negative electrode has a layered structure comprising a substrate plate as a core and a cladding layer thereon made from the hydrogen absorbing alloy.

**Claim 12 (Original)** The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 11 in which the cladding layer of the hydrogen absorbing alloy on the substrate plate has a thickness in the range from 50 to 300  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Claim 13 (Original)** The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 11 in which

the hydrogen absorbing alloy forming the cladding layer is fluorinated at least in the surface layer.

**Claim 14 (Original)** The liquid fuel cell as claimed in claim 13 in which the fluorinated surface layer of the cladding layer of the hydrogen absorbing alloy has a thickness in the range from 0.01 to 1  $\mu\text{m}$ .